CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims the benefit of U.S. provisional application Serial No. 60/273,124, filed March 2, 2001.

TECHNICAL FIELD OF THE INVENTION

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The present invention relates to compounds useful for inhibiting enzymes that maintain and repair the integrity of genetic material. More particularly, the present invention relates to a series of aryl- and heteroaryl-substituted urea compounds, methods of making the compounds, and their use as therapeutic agents, for example, in treating cancer and other diseases characterized by defects in deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) replication, chromosome segregation, or cell division.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

An important and significant goal in 25 healthcare is to discover and make available safer and more effective drugs for the treatment of cancer. Most chemotherapeutic agents act by disrupting DNA metabolism, DNA synthesis, DNA transcription, or microtubule spindle function, or by 30 perturbing chromosomal structural integrity by introducing DNA lesions. These processes affect both normal and tumor cells. The maintenance of DNA integrity is essential to cell viability in normal cells, therefore, anticancer drugs have the lowest 35 therapeutic index of any drug class.